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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Main entry under title:

Webster's ninth new collegiate dictionary.

Based on Webster's third new international
dictionary.

Includes index.

I. English language—Dictionaries. I. Merriam-
Webster Inc.

PE1628.W5638 1984 423 83-19499

ISBN 0-87779-508-8

ISBN 0-87779-509-6 (indexed)

ISBN 0-87779-510-X (deluxe)

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Made in the United States of America

9RMCN84

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im-plic-a-te \im-pli-kāt\ *v* -cat-ed; -cat-ing [L *implicatus*, pp. of *implicare* — more at **EMPLOY**] (15c) 1 *archaic*: to fold or twist together
EN-*WINE* 2: to involve as a consequence, corollary, or natural inter-
ence 3 *a*: to bring into intimate or incriminating connection
b: to involve in the nature or operation of something
im-plic-a-tion \im-pli-kā-shən\ *n* (15c) 1 *a*: the act of implicating
the state of being implicated *b*: close connection; esp.: an incrimi-
inating involvement 2 *a*: the act of implying; the state of being
implied *b* (1): a logical relation between two propositions that fails
to hold only if the first is true and the second is false (2): a logical
second is true (3): a statement exhibiting a relation of implication 3
the state of being implied *a*: **SUGGESTION** *b*: a possible significance
st-adj -**im-plic-a-tive-ly** *adv* -**im-plic-a-tive-ness** *n*
im-plic-it \im-plis-ət\ *adj* [L *implicitus*, pp. of *implicare*] (1599) 1 *a*
IMPLIED (an ~ assumption) *b*: involved in the nature or essence of
something though not revealed, expressed, or developed — **POTENTIAL** (*a*
e of a mathematical function: defined by an expression in which the
dependent variable and the one or more independent variables are not
separated on opposite sides of an equation ($\ln x + 3xy + y = 0$, *y* is not
an ~ function of *x*) — compare EXPLICIT 4 2: being without doubt or
reserve — **UNQUESTIONING, ABSOLUTE** — **im-plic-it-ly** *adv* — **im-plic-it-ness** *n*

implicit differentiation *n* (ca. 1891): the process of finding the deriva-
tive of a dependent variable in an implicit function by differentiating
each term separately, by expressing the derivative of the dependent
variable as a symbol, and by solving the resulting expression for the
symbol

im-plode \im-plōd\ *v* -plod-ed; -plod-ing [in- + *plode* (as in *ex-
 plode*) *v* (1881) 1 *a*: to burst inward (a blow causing a vacuum
 tube to ~) *b*: to undergo violent compression (massive stars which
 ~) 2: to collapse inward as if from external pressure; also: to be-
 ~-**im-plode** \im-plōd-ə\ *v* -plod-ed; -plod-ing [MF or L: MF
implorare, fr. L *implorare*, fr. in- + *plorare* to cry out] (1540) 1: to call
upon in supplication 2: to call or pray for earnestly: **EN-**
PLORATE *syn* see **BEG** — **im-plor-ing-ly** *adv*

im-plo-sion \im-plō-zhən\ *n* [in- + *plasion* (as in *explosion*)] (1877) 1
the inrush of air in forming a suction stop 2: the action of implod-
ing 3: the act or action of bringing to or as if to a center; also: **INTE-**
GRATION (this ~ of cultures makes realistic for the first time the age-old
vision of a world culture — Kenneth Keniston) — **im-plo-sive** \-plō-

siv *adj* or *n*
im-ply \im-pli\ *v* -plied; -ply-ing [ME *emplier*, fr. MF *emplier*, fr.
by inference, association, or necessary consequence rather than by
direct statement (rights ~ obligations) 3: to contain potentially 4:
to express indirectly (his silence implied consent) *syn* see **SUGGEST**
usage see **INFER**

im-pol-ite \im-pō-lit\ *adj* [L *impolitus*, fr. in- + *politus* *polite*] (1739)
not polite: **RUDE** — **im-pol-itely** *adv* — **im-pol-it-ness** *n*
im-pol-itic \im-pō-lit-ik\ *adj* (1600) not *politic*: **RASH** — **im-pol-it-**
ical \im-pō-lit-ik-əl\ *adj* — **im-pol-it-ic-ally** \-lit-ik-ə-lē\ *adv* — **im-**
pol-it-ic-ly \im-pō-lit-ik-lē\ *adv*

im-pon-der-a-ble \im-pān-də-rə-bəl\ *adj* [ML *imponderabilis*, fr. L
in- + L *ponderabilis* ponderable] (1794) not *ponderable*: **EX-**
ceeding in being weighed or evaluated with exactness — **im-pon-der-a-bil-ty**
(im-pān-də-rə-bil-ē-tē\ *n* — imponderable *n* — im-pon-der-a-bly
(im-pān-də-rə-blē\ *adv*

im-pone \im-pōn\ *v* -poned; -pon-ing [L *imponere* to put upon, fr.
in- + *ponere* to put — more at POSITION] obs (1529) *WAGER, BET*
im-por-tant \im-pōrt-ənt\ *adj* [ME *importen*, fr. L *importare*
to bring into, fr. in- + *portare* to carry — more at FARE] (15c) 1 *a*
to bear or convey as meaning or portent: **SIGNIFY** *b* *archaic*: **a**
press, state, or 2: to bring from a foreign or external source;
exp: to bring (as merchandise) into a place or country from another
country 3 *archaic*: to be of importance to; **CONCERN** ~ *w*: to be of
consequence: **MATTER** — **im-port-able** \im-pōrt-ə-bəl, -pōrt-, -im-
ad-adj — **im-port-er** *n*

im-portant \im-pōrt-ənt\ *n* (1570) 1: **IMPORTANCE**; esp.: relative
importance (it is hard to determine the ~ of this decision) 2: **PUR-**
PORT, SIGNIFICATION 3: something that is imported 4: **IMPORTATION**
im-portant-ly \im-pōrt-ənt-lē\ *adv* *esp* **Southern & New Eng** -**ənt-lē\ *n* (1508)**
1 *a*: the quality or state of being important: **CONSEQUENCE** *b*: an
important aspect or bearing: **SIGNIFICANCE** 2 obs: **IMPORT, MEANING**
3 obs: IMPORTUNITY 4 obs: a weighty matter

syn **IMPORTANCE, CONSEQUENCE, MOMENT, WEIGHT, SIGNIFICANCE** mean a
quality or aspect having great worth or significance. IMPORTANCE mean a
value judgment of the superior worth or influence of something
or someone; CONSEQUENCE may imply importance in social rank but
more generally implies importance because of probable or possible
effects; MOMENT implies conspicuous or self-evident consequence;
WEIGHT implies a judgment of the immediate relative importance of
something; SIGNIFICANCE implies a quality or character that should
mark a thing as important but that is not self-evident and may or may
not be recognized.

im-portant-ly \-pōrt-ənt-lē\ *n* *archaic* (1540): **IMPORTANCE**
im-portant-ly \im-pōrt-ənt-lē\ *adv* [MF, fr. Old
importante, fr. L *important*, *importans*, pp. of *importare*] (15c) 1
marked by or indicative of significant worth or consequence: **valu-**
able in content or relationship 2 obs: **IMPORTANT, URGENT** 3: **giv-**
ing evidence of a feeling of self-importance — **im-portant-ly** *adv*

im-porta-tion \im-pōrt-ā-shən\ *n* -**por-, -por-** (1601) 1: the act or
practice of importing 2: something imported
imported cabbageworm *n* (1892): a small cosmopolitan white butterfly
(*Pieris rapae*) or its larva which is a pest of cruciferous plants and esp.
cabbage

imported fire ant *n* (ca. 1949): a small brown So. American fire ant
(*Solenopsis saevissima richieri*) that is a destructive pest in the south-
eastern U.S.

im-por-tu-ate \im-pōrch-(ə)-nət\ *adj* (15c) 1: troublesomely urgent
or overly persistent in request or demand 2: **TROUBLESOME** — **im-por-**
tu-ate-ly *adv* — **im-por-tu-ate-ness** *n*

im-por-tune \im-pōr-(y)ūn, im-pōr-chən\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF
importun, fr. L *importunus*, fr. in- + *portunus* (as in *opportunus* fit) —
more at OPPORTUNE] (15c): **IMPORTUNATE** — **im-por-tune-ly** *adv*

im-por-tune-ly \im-pōr-tūn-lē\ *adv* (1530) 1 *a*: to press or urge with
troublesome persistence *b* *archaic*: to request or beg for urgently 2
: ANNOY, TROUBLE ~ *w*: to beg, urge, or solicit persistently or trouble-
somely *syn* see **BEG** — **im-por-tune-er** *n*

im-por-tu-ni-ty \im-pōr-(y)ū-ni-tē\ *n* *pl* -ties (15c) 1: the quality or
state of being importunate 2: an importunate request or demand
im-pose \im-pōz\ *v* -posed; -pos-ing [MF *imposer*, fr. L *imponere*,
lit., to put upon (perf. indic. imposui), fr. in- + *ponere* to put — more at
(~ new restrictions) (~ penalties) *b*: to establish or bring about as if
by force (those limits imposed by our own inadequacies — C. H.
Plimpton) 2 *a*: PLACE, SET *b*: to arrange (as pages) in the proper
order for printing 3: PASS OFF (~ fake antiques on the public) 4: to
others) ~ *w*: to take unwarranted advantage of another (~ oneself on
his good nature) — **im-pose-er *n***

im-pose-ing \im-pō-zīg\ *adj* (1786): impressive because of size, bearing,
dignity, or grandeur *syn* see **GRAND** — **im-pose-ing-ly** \-zīg-lē\ *adv*

im-po-si-tion \im-pō-zish-ən\ *n* (14c) 1: the act of imposing 2
by force (those limits imposed by our own inadequacies — C. H.
Plimpton) 2 *a*: PLACE, SET *b*: to arrange (as pages) in the proper
order for printing 3: PASS OFF (~ fake antiques on the public) 4: to
others) ~ *w*: to take unwarranted advantage of another (~ oneself on
his good nature) — **im-pose-er *n***

im-pose-ment \im-pōz-ə-mənt\ *n* (1540) 1: the quality or state
of being impossible 2: something impossible
im-pos-si-ble \im-pōs-ə-bəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *impos-*
sibilis, fr. in- + *possibilis* possible] (14c) 1 *a*: incapable of being or of
occurring *b*: felt to be incapable of being done, attained, or fulfilled
2: insuperably difficult 3: extremely undesirable: **UNACCEPTABLE**
4: extremely awkward or difficult to deal with — **im-pos-si-ble-ness** *n*

im-pos-si-bly \-blē\ *adv*
im-post \im-pōst\ *n* [MF, fr. ML *impositum*, fr. L, neut. of *imponere*,
pp. of *imponere*] (1568): something imposed or levied: **TAX**
im-post *n* [F *imposte*, deriv. of L *impositus*] (ca. 1664): a block, capital,
or molding from which an arch springs — see ARCH illustration
im-post-er \im-pōst-ər\ *n* [LL *impostor*, fr. *impostus*, pp.]
(1586): one that assumes an identity or title not his own for the pur-
pose of deception

im-post-ure \im-pōst-ʃər\ *n* [ME *impostura*, fr. *impostus*, pp. of
imponere, deriv. of Gk *apostema*, fr. *aphistanai* to remove, fr. *apo-* +
histanai to cause to stand — more at **STAND**] *archaic* (14c): **ABSCESS**
im-post-ure \im-pōst-ʃər\ *n* [LL *impostura*, fr. L *impositus*, *impostus*,
pp. of *imponere*] (1537) 1: the act or practice of deceiving by means
of an assumed character or name 2: an instance of imposture

syn **IMPOSTURE, FRAUD, SHAM, FAKE, HUMBUG, COUNTERFEIT** mean a thing
made to seem other than it is. IMPOSTURE applies to any situation in
which a spurious object or performance is passed off as genuine;
FRAUD usu. implies a deliberate perversion of the truth; **SHAM** appli-
es to fraudulent imitation of a real thing or action; FAKE implies an imita-
tion of or substitution for the genuine but does not necessarily imply
dishonesty; HUMBUG suggests elaborate pretense usu. so flagrant as to
be transparent; COUNTERFEIT applies esp. to the close imitation of
something valuable.

im-po-tence \im-pōt-əns\ *n* (15c): the quality or state of being im-po-
tent

im-po-ten-cy \-ən-sē\ *n* (15c): **IMPOTENCE**
im-po-tent \im-pōt-ənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF & L; MF, fr. L *impotent*, *im-*
**potens, fr. in- + *potens*, *potens* potent] (14c) 1 *a*: not potent: lack-
ing in power, strength, or vigor: **HELPLESS** *b*: unable to copulate;
restraint: **UNGOVERNABLE** — **im-pot-ent-ly** *adv***

im-poun-d \im-paund\ *v* (15c) 1 *a*: to shut up in or as if in a pound
and confine (water) in or as if in a reservoir 2: to col-
lect and confine (water) in or as if in a reservoir 3: the act of impounding
the state of being impounded 4: a body of water formed by im-
pounding

im-pov-er-ish \im-pāv-(ə)-rīsh\ *v* [ME *empoverisen*, fr. MF *empovris-*
stem of *empovir*, fr. en- + *povre* poor — more at POOR] (15c) 1: to
make poor 2: to deprive of strength, richness, or fertility by deplet-
ing or draining of something essential *syn* see **DEplete** — **im-pov-er-**
ish-er *n* — **im-pov-er-ish-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

im-pov-er-ish-ed *adj*, of a fauna or flora (1950): represented by few spe-
cies or individuals

im-prac-ti-ca-ble \im-prak-ti-kə-bəl\ *adj* (1653) 1: not practicable
incapable of being performed or accomplished by the means em-
ployed or at command 2: **IMPASSABLE** (an ~ road) — **im-prac-ti-ca-**
bil-ty \im-prak-ti-kə-bil-ē-tē\ *n* — **im-prac-ti-ca-bly** \im-prak-ti-

im-prac-ti-cal \im-prak-ti-kəl\ *adj* (1865): not practical: as *a*: not
wise to put into or keep in practice or effect *b*: incapable of dealing
sensibly or prudently with practical matters *c*: **IMPRAC-TICABLE** *d*
idealistic — **im-prac-ti-cal-ly** \im-prak-ti-kəl-lē\ *adv*

im-pre-cate \im-pri-kāt\ *v* -cat-ed; -cat-ing [L *imprecatus*, pp. of *im-*
precari, fr. in- + *precari* to pray — more at **PRAY**] (1616): to invoke
precari, fr. in- + *precari* to pray — more at **PRAY**] (1616): to invoke
on: CURSE ~ *w*: to utter curses

im-pre-ca-tion \im-pri-kā-shən\ *n* (15c) 1: the act of imprecating 2
: CURSE — **im-pre-ca-to-ry** \im-pri-kə-tōr-ē, -im-prēk-ə-, -tōr-ē\ *adj*
im-pre-cise \im-pri-sis\ *adj* (1605): not precise: **INEXACT, VAGUE** —
im-pre-cise-ly *adv* — **im-pre-cise-ness** *n* — **im-pre-cision** \-sish-ən\ *n*

about kitten, F table farther ash ace cot, cart
 out chin bet easy go hit ice job
 sing go law boy thin the foot foot
 yet vision A, B, C, D, E, F see Guide to Pronunciation

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